

# THE AUSTRALIAN LIBRARY JOURNAL

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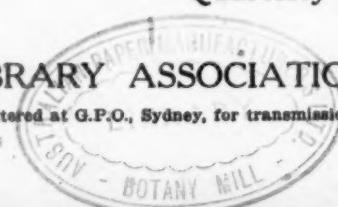
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Quarterly

October, 1953

THE LIBRARY ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA

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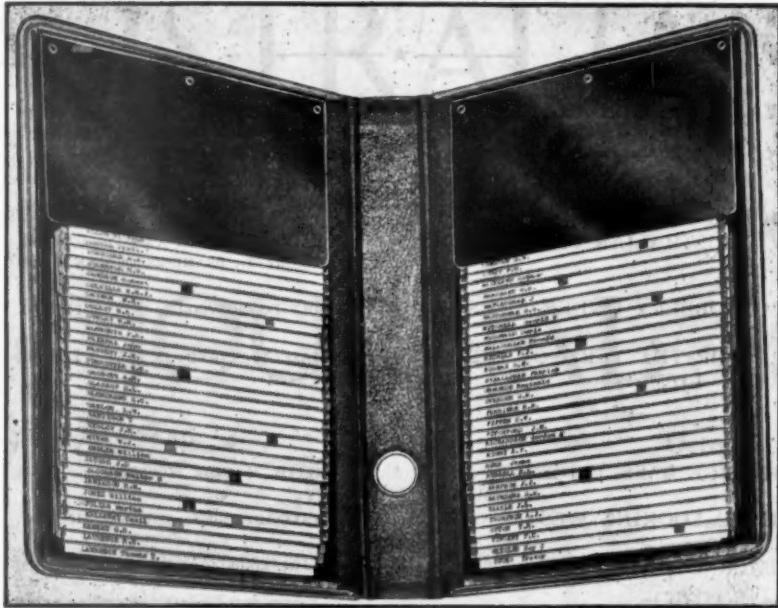
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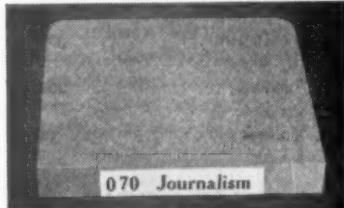
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printing has lowered the level of intelligence and morality, and has increased the conflicts between men, and between nations. Far from "exciting vital or noble emotion and intellectual action", a large proportion of printed material appeals to man's superstition, vulgarity, and cruelty, and excites his contempt for the cultural heritage of civilization which in the past it has been the main task of books and libraries to preserve.

In this deterioration of standards, the librarian, though not entirely to blame, must nevertheless take some share of responsibility. As custodian of books, the librarian is custodian of civilization, of the cultural heritage which is the basis of civilized living. Universities and libraries are two of the most important institutions for the preservation and extension of knowledge, for independent inquiry. The Universities play the more positive role, but the libraries are one of the main mediums through which scholars work. Thus the librarian has the vital task of preserving the independence of libraries, and of preventing them from being used for anti-cultural or political purposes. And, in his book-buying and library administration, the librarian has also a positive role, of fighting the "Philistines and Barbarians" by his choice of good books and by his making them freely available for all readers.

The strategic position of the library as a medium for propaganda, and of the librarian as a potential victim of the "witch-hunt", was strikingly demonstrated in the recent book-burning scare in the United States. The American librarians courageously defended the necessary independence of librarians. The American Library Association, of which you should all be proud, criticized the State Department and declared that librarians had a special responsibility for "making available the widest diversity of views and expressions, including those which are unorthodox or unpopular with the majority"; that it was not their business "to determine the acceptability of a book solely on the basis of the personal history or political affiliations of the author". The reply of the President was similarly heartening. "The

libraries of America", he declared, "are, and must ever remain, the homes of free inquiring minds. To them, our citizens—of all ages and races, of all creeds and political persuasions—must ever be able to turn with clear confidence that there they can freely seek the whole truth unwarped by fashion and uncompromised by expediency."

The dangers in Australia are perhaps less, but nevertheless real. The enemies of free inquiry are ever the enemies of the librarian and must at all times be firmly opposed.

### III

The librarian and the scholar thus have in common a concern for the preservation and extension of knowledge and of free enquiry. But does the librarian always remember how dependent the scholar is on a library? The scholar's tools of research are books, and, since most scholars today cannot afford a personal library of any size, those books are usually located in libraries. Libraries are, of course, for readers, and only for librarians in so far as they too can read. And of all readers, the scholar and the creative writer are the most important. They have the special mission of inquiring into, criticizing and interpreting, and adding to, the store of knowledge already housed in libraries. (Thus, any attempt by librarians to keep scholars away from books, and thus prevent them from writing more books, is, in the long run, professional suicide!) It is the duty of the librarian, therefore, to facilitate their work in every way possible, for *it is the main function of the librarian to promote inquiry*. This he does by supplying current publications for contemporary needs, and by preserving books for posterity. The librarian is the servant of the books he cares for, and of the readers, both current and future, who read them. Both duties must be kept in mind, for a library should be more than a book repository. He fulfils these duties by buying books, cataloguing them, and making them available to the reader. It is not his main function to become so engrossed with the technicalities of library organization as to forget that he is the custodian and not

the proprietor of the books. (As custodian, for example, he cannot define the "utility" of a book by the amount of its physical use. In scholarship books get short and infrequent use, and the justification for their preservation may be reference to them once in a century. Therefore, normal "accounting" is useless in assessing the value of books.) The feeling of proprietorship is perhaps the most common failing of librarians. The danger sign is the use of the term "my library". In some extreme cases it takes the form of resenting the intrusion of readers into the library, but more usually it takes the unthinking form of discouraging them. The attitude is well seen, also, in the term "library user", and in the type of article in your journals called "Training the Library User". The assumptions behind such an article, it seems to me, are that the library is so badly organized that it requires "training" to use it, and/or that the "library user" is so unintelligent that he does not know what he is looking for or how to find it.

When I come to a library, I know what I am looking for. What I expect from the librarian is a full knowledge of the resources of the library, and of its catalogues and indexes. For this reason a librarian should have a knowledge of books as well as of library organization. It is especially true of a research library, and it is a research collection which makes a library famous. (Thus, for example, the incomparable Mitchell collection of Australian material is known throughout the world; the much larger general collection of the New South Wales Public Library, in contrast, hardly causes a ripple of interest outside of Sydney!) Obviously a research library should be organized differently from a general library, but in both libraries the scholar should receive favourable treatment. The research library should indeed be geared entirely to his needs—in organization, cataloguing, disposition and availability of books and manuscripts. The library is the main instrument of scholarship. For this reason I believe that the research librarian should be a scholar-librarian, for

only such a person will have complete understanding of the needs of scholars. Alternatively, each research library should have, in addition to the librarian, a director of research and a research staff, which should play a vital role in the library and its organization. At the very least, the research library should, in its trustees or by some other formal means, be able to seek the advice of scholars. Too often the research library serves the antiquarian. Now antiquarianism is a good thing in that it preserves a lively interest in the past, but, usually, it does not promote inquiry and, therefore, is less important than scholarship. I think it has been an excellent move on the part of the Library Association to seek the active co-operation of Australian scholars by inviting them to become members. But having got us in, particularly on the pretext of interest in archives, I regret to say that you have not taken advantage of us. I would welcome a move whereby scholars could play a much more active role in library development, but I must confess that membership of the Association at the moment has the main and doubtful privilege of adding to my bookshelf regularly a most unscholarly journal.

#### IV

And now, having related the common duties of the librarian and the scholar to uphold inquiry, and having defined the duties of the librarian to the scholar, I would like to discuss the problems of book-buying and cataloguing, which directly affect the scholar.

##### (a) *Ordering of Books.*

It is far better for the scholar to have good books than good librarians. In fact, if the books are there, and there is some means of getting at them, then the librarian need be little more than an attendant. However, few libraries can work with their book capital, and all libraries add rapidly to their collection. Who should choose the books to be acquired? The scholar or the librarian? In universities it is usually the prerogative of the scholar; in public libraries it is usually the right of the librarian. The

librarian argues that he is the more impartial buyer, and that too often, when the scholar directs the buying, he buys only to suit his individual research. It depends, I suppose, on the purpose of the library. If it is a research library, it must be specialized. If it is a general library the buying of books is more difficult, more selective, and more arbitrary. *Every library reflects the interests and prejudices of the person (or persons) who are responsible for the book-selection.* Thus, for example, two libraries like the public libraries of New South Wales and Victoria, with similar histories and similar functions, but with different librarians, have markedly different collections. This is most desirable. The modern trend of scientific book selection is having the unfortunate result of making collections too uniform, too similar, without the individual differences which give libraries their value and character. It is far better to have a librarian of scholarly interests, whose book buying reflects those interests, than to have a librarian whose aim is to satisfy *all* demands for books, and who, in consequence, satisfies none. No librarian can afford to buy all the books he wants to purchase, and it is desirable, therefore, that he should buy wisely, and, also, that he should specialize in *at least one field*. This is one of the main ways in which the librarian can encourage scholarship. If a library collection is too general it attracts only the general reader. If it is a research library, if only in a small field, it attracts scholars and promotes scholarly inquiry and writing. This is particularly necessary in Australia where there are so few research libraries. It would be a great advantage to scholars if each library in Australia, in addition to its general collection and its state archives, specialized in some subject or aspect of a subject. It would, among other things, undoubtedly stimulate post-graduate research, so little of which is done in Australian universities. Australian libraries, except for historical libraries such as the Mitchell, are far too general to be of great assistance to the research scholar. Hence one of the main reasons why graduates go overseas—to get to research

libraries. Is it too unrealistic to hope that the libraries of Australia could devise a plan for specialization? Library resources in Australia could be infinitely strengthened by cutting down duplication and specialization in buying, both of books and periodicals. A full-scale co-operative scheme would be necessary, particularly as regards foreign and United States publications, in which Australian libraries are very weak. One major field of study, for example, in which we are hopelessly weak is Russia and the Far East. The specialization could be by geographical area and by subject: for example, Sydney could specialize in Japan on the one hand, and economic history on the other. Only in this way could the various libraries of Australia become important research libraries.

#### (b) Cataloguing.

"As important as the resource materials of a library are the tools of access to that material." Thus the function of the librarian is not only to know what is in the library, but to have that knowledge on comprehensible cards, and, if possible, in print. The important link between the reader and the books of a library is the catalogue. "Adequate catalogue controls and bibliographical apparatus are as important researches of a library as are the collections". The catalogue is of great use both to the scholar and to the general reader, but for the general reader it need be little more than a finding list. For the scholar it should be a reference tool in its own right. Each library should have its "guide for readers", and the research library should have something far more detailed; the main function of such a guide should be to indicate the resources of the library and to detail the various catalogues that exist. (A good example of such a guide is that prepared for the readers of the Mitchell library.) Each library, also, should have its regular accession lists, not necessarily published, but at least cyclostyled, and available to the scholars. Next are the catalogues themselves. Cataloguing is, as you know, an expensive business, and nowhere is the

parochialism of the Australian librarians more strikingly illustrated than in their cataloguing. The waste of money in duplicating this vital library service in the many libraries of Australia is as fantastic as it is irresponsible. In a survey of library costs in America it was found that the average price of books for a college library was \$0.95, while the average price of cataloguing was \$1.05 per volume. If this is at all typical, and I suspect that it might be, cataloguing doubles the cost of every book purchased. And, moreover, cataloguing delays (and what library is not behind in its cataloguing?) mean that the speeding-up of orders by air-mail and on-the-spot purchasing is often vitiated by the long time which elapses between the receipt of books in the library and their appearance on the reading shelves. I am not minimizing the great problems to be overcome in the organization of central cataloguing, but I am quite sure that good-will and intelligent planning could achieve that very desirable economy. Not only would central cataloguing cut down book costs, but it would allow for greater specialization among cataloguers and, thus, far better cataloguing. It is desirable as far as it is possible, for the cataloguer to be a specialist, not only in cataloguing, but in the field of study of the books he catalogues.

There is, of course, a marked difference between the general catalogue and the detailed index of the research library. And here I suggest that such indexing should be the subject of high-policy in which the scholars have an important say. Such policy should be concerned with what to index,

#### Spoon Feeding Your Readers!

A busy special librarian in the city of Sydney was rather taken aback recently by a reader, who rang to borrow a book. He was told that the book was too heavy for posting and was asked to send for it. He protested that his staff was rather busy and asked the Librarian to walk down with the book to the Manly Ferry, give it to a deck-hand and then he would have it picked up when it arrived across the Harbour at the Manly Wharf. She declined.

and how it should be indexed. Much indexing, in my opinion, has been misdirected. But the indexing of historical records (be they manuscript, or newspaper, or what you will) is as much a scholarly as a librarian's craft. Unless the indexer has a good knowledge of the historical or theoretical background of the material he is indexing, the chances are that the resulting index will be practically useless for anyone but the most casual reader. An index is, in effect, a summary, and cannot be properly devised by anyone but a scholar. Indexing policy should be determined on the criterion of the importance of the material to be indexed, and the usefulness of the subsequent index for scholarly investigation.

#### V

#### CONCLUSIONS

1. The scholar and the librarian have in common the responsibility of encouraging scholarship and inquiry by preserving books for posterity and by making them available at all times for scholarly investigation.
2. The library is one of the main instruments of humane scholarship, and it is the duty of the librarian, therefore, to encourage and assist scholarship by an appropriate buying policy and by a cataloguing-indexing programme which will be of maximum use to the scholar.
3. The librarians of Australia can be active in these desirable objectives by much closer liaison with the scholars of Australia, and, in particular, by inter-library co-operation in buying and cataloguing with the aim of building up research libraries.

#### Lower Case Library Work

Readers of the *Sydney Morning Herald* recently were surprised to read an advertisement for a special librarian with experience in "lower case library work" and holding a "lower case university degree". Many hesitated, thinking that perhaps this was a new administration term and were unwilling to confess their ignorance. Fortunately all is now settled, as it turns out to be misplaced instructions to the printer and did not refer to a new specialty.

## Australian International Exchange Centres

By N. S. LYNNRAVN, B.A.,  
*Chief Preparations Officer, Commonwealth National Library.*

A general UNESCO survey made in recent years of the roles of international organizations for the exchange of publications has shown broadly that at present they fall into one or more of three categories.<sup>1</sup>

Their purpose is either to act—

- (a) *As transmission agencies*, "passive intermediaries" that do not initiate contacts between institutions, but which provide receiving and despatch facilities and transport amounting to an "indirect subsidy for those bodies that exchange their publications against publications received from abroad, "e.g. Smithsonian Institution, or
- (b) *As information centres* which publish lists of works available (e.g. National Book Centre), and sometimes bibliographies of official and non-official publications. "Their main task appears to be to supply their national libraries with national or foreign publications, to establish contact with foreign libraries having stocks of material for exchange, or finally to aid in the reconstruction of war damaged libraries", or
- (c) *As centres performing*, in addition to the functions of (a) and (b) *the additional function of negotiating agreements* with governments and institutions of other countries. "In cases where the exchange bureau is attached to or forms part of a large library, it is normally responsible for the regular exchange service of that organization. In such cases, the publications at its disposal are designed both to develop the exchange relations of the library, and to meet national requirements." The International Exchange Service of France is an example.

From a survey made of the roles of the seven Australian exchange organizations, it is evident that those of the six States come fairly clearly within category (a) and less clearly in category (c). While five organizations are also recognized as the State authority for negotiating agreements with other governments, it is apparent that such negotiations have been confined for the greater part to understandings with the United Kingdom and United States Governments from whom a wide range of official publications is received by all States. Similarly there appear to be no clear agreements between the Commonwealth and the State Governments or between the State Governments themselves for a comprehensive exchange of their official publications. However, while the existence of formal agreements is not apparent, an understanding arrived at between the Commonwealth and the States for the interchange of Government publications has existed since Federation. The provision of such an arrangement together with the results of the National Library's approaches to newly created departments has made possible the publication of the Library's monthly and annual lists of Australian government publications. Doubtless the needs of the States for each other's publications is met by similar understandings and by agreements between departments.

The six State exchange organizations then are less concerned with initiating or negotiating exchanges than they are with the centralization of facilities for the transmission of exchanges initiated and required by the State Library, departments, University, and learned societies.

Whether it is likely to be the policy of any of the States to seek on a large scale comprehensive agreements with foreign governments would seem to be doubtful. It may be considered that the receipt of the publications from the principal English

<sup>1</sup> UNESCO Handbook on the International Exchange of Publications, 1950, pp. 116-117.

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speaking countries, of material from other countries selected to meet definite and known needs and the availability from the National Library of lesser sought official publications provide sufficient coverage for their requirements.

None of the Australian governments was a participant in the Brussels Convention of 1886 which provided, *inter alia*, for the exchange between contracting governments of one copy each of their publications. Other aspects of the Brussels Convention, however, particularly the principle of exchanging governmental and learned society publications with institutions in other countries and the setting up of centralized exchange bureaux, found response in Australia, and it was from about the 1890's that the various Australian exchange organizations began to be established, the Board of International Exchanges in New South Wales in 1890 probably being the first. (The Board was disbanded in 1912, control of exchanges being taken over by the Public Library.) In Victoria and Western Australia exchange services evolved as a function of the State Public Library and in Queensland of the Premier and Chief Secretary's Office. In South Australia, exchange services were co-ordinated and made a function of the Government Printing Office in 1928, and in Tasmania, though remaining a function of the State Library, legislative provision was made in 1943 for the creation of a State Exchanges Committee. The Committee is not likely to become active, however, until new accommodation is found.

Thus, while five of the Australian exchange organizations function within or as part of the Commonwealth or State Library, the other two operate under other departments. The operation of the Bureau of International Exchanges of Publications in the Queensland Premier and the Chief Secretary's Department appears to be traditional rather than logical, but the location of the South Australian Government Exchanges Bureau in the Government Printing Office obviously has much to commend it particularly in the Bureau's role of transmission agency.

In 1947 consideration was given at a conference of Commonwealth and State representatives to the possibility of centralizing all Australian exchange activities in the one organization. It was finally resolved, however, that such centralization was impracticable and inadvisable.

As would be expected, the greatest State exchange activity is to be found in the major States of New South Wales and Victoria, this activity being reflected both in the number of institutions with whom exchanges are conducted and in the amount of material that is handled. In the case of New South Wales the latter is especially heavy as it acts as a receiving depot for Smithsonian consignments not only for the State but for the Australian Capital Territory as well.

A common practice in the despatch of consignments outside the country is to send bulk shipments of material for England and Europe to the respective Agents-General in London and for the United States and certain other American countries to the Smithsonian Institution. In other cases publications are despatched by post.

Unlike the State organizations, the Commonwealth Publications Exchange Agency, apart from acting as a distributing centre for departments in Canberra of consignments from the Smithsonian Institution and certain European organizations is not concerned with the physical transmission of publications. For a number of reasons it is doubtful whether the assumption of this function would be practicable, viz.:

- (a) The existing despatch facilities at the Government Printing Office,
- (b) The location of some publishing departments in other cities,
- (c) The limited number of publishing learned societies in Canberra.
- (d) Canberra's distance from a sea port.

The Commonwealth Publications Exchange Agency comes more closely within the category (c), i.e. it performs some of the functions of (a), many of the functions of (b), and is particularly concerned with the additional function of (c). As an information centre the National Library has already contributed towards the rationalization of

resources within Australia, has despatched material to the war-devastated Philippines, has become a participant in the Farmington Plan, and has assumed responsibility for the production of five national bibliographical publications—the monthly list of *Books published in Australia*, *Monthly list of Australian government publications*, *Australian public affairs information service*, *Annual Catalogue of Australian publications*, and *Australian books*.

As an instrument for negotiating exchanges on behalf of the Commonwealth Government, it is particularly active. It is not directly concerned with the exchanges made by departments with their opposite numbers in other countries, but one of its terms of reference is to record such exchanges with a view to reducing unnecessary duplication.

Prior to the establishment of the Commonwealth Publications Exchange Agency the National Library already had arrangements for the receipt of depository collections of governmental documents published in the United Kingdom, the United States, the Australian States, for the receipt of basic publications of the British Colonies and dependencies, and certain other countries. The principal activity of the Exchange Agency has been to extend the range of governmental exchanges to cover at least the most important publications issued in every country possible.

In addition the National Library has exchange arrangements at the institutional level with some 350 organizations mainly university and other libraries, learned societies, and at the present time certain individual government agencies.

#### AUSTRALIAN INTERNATIONAL EXCHANGE CENTRES

##### *Designation*

Commonwealth Publications Exchange Agency.

##### *Establishment and Administration*

Established 1947 and operates as a part of the Commonwealth National Library. The Librarian is Chairman of the Commonwealth Publications Exchange Advisory Committee which comprises Departmental representatives.

The National Library is the depository for all publications negotiated for by the Exchange Agency.

##### *Functions—As an Instrument for Negotiating Exchanges*

Negotiates exchange agreements for the Commonwealth Government with other Governments and Administrations. Is closely related to the National Library's Gift & Exchange Section which arrange institutional exchanges on behalf of the Library, and to the Australian Section which is responsible for the compilation of national bibliographical publications. Has agreements with most of the English speaking countries and several others. Other agreements are being negotiated.

##### *Functions—As a Receiving and Distributing Agency*

Receives bulk consignments from the United States through Smithsonian Institution and certain European exchange centres, and distributes contents to specified libraries and departments in Canberra.

Is not an outgoing despatch centre except for the publications of the National Library. Principal despatch centre is the Commonwealth Government Printing Office. Some Departments despatch their own publications.

##### *Designation*

Public Library of New South Wales, Sydney.

##### *Establishment and Administration*

In 1913 the Public Library took over the functions of the Board of International Exchanges, set up in 1890. The Public Library is the principal State depository for publications received on exchange.

##### *Functions—As an Instrument for Negotiating Exchanges*

Is the recognized authority for negotiating exchanges on behalf of the State, and is a depository for British and United States official publications, but the preponderance of its exchange agreements are at the institutional level. It assumes no responsibility for

the regular continuity of the supply of exchanges passing through its exchange service. Many international exchanges are made directly between the departments, etc., concerned and not through the Public Library. In some cases it supplies missing parts on request, but normally these are supplied by the issuing departments.

*Functions—As a Receiving and Distributing Agency*

Acts as a receiving and distributing agency for State departments and other institutions. In addition it receives and remails to Canberra consignments from the Smithsonian Institution destined for the A.C.T.

*Designation*

Public Library of Victoria, Swanston Street, Melbourne, C.1, Victoria.

*Establishment and Administration*

Exchange service evolved as a function of the Library some considerable time after its establishment in 1854. The Library is the principal depository for publications received on exchange.

*Functions—As an Instrument for Negotiating Exchanges*

Is the recognized authority for negotiating exchanges on behalf of the State. Has agreements with the governments of the U.K. and U.S.A. as well as many agreements with libraries and other institutions.

Does not negotiate on behalf of individual Departments, but keeps records of publications despatched through the Exchange Service. Arranges supply of missing parts on request.

*Functions—As a Receiving and Distributing Agency*

- Acts as a receiving and despatch centre for inward and outward consignments of Governmental, Society, University and other non-Governmental publications.

*Designation*

South Australian Government Exchange Bureau. Government Printing Office, Adelaide, South Australia.

*Establishment and Administration*

Established in 1929 as a function of the Government Printing Office. The Public Library of South Australia is one of the depositories for publications received on exchange.

*Functions—As an Instrument for Negotiating Exchanges*

Has authority to negotiate exchanges, but normally Government Departments and other bodies negotiate direct, and then make final arrangements through the Bureau. Record of such exchanges is maintained by the Bureau, which also makes available on request missing parts.

*Functions—As a Receiving and Distributing Agency*

Receives consignments from overseas for distribution to Departments, learned societies, etc. Despatches publications overseas on behalf of Departments and societies to Agent-General in case of Great Britain and European consignments to Smithsonian Institution for Canadian and American.

*Designation*

Bureau of International Exchange of Publications, Premier and Chief Secretary's Department, Brisbane, B7, Queensland.

*Establishment and Administration*

No record of date of establishment. Operates as a function of the Premier and Chief Secretary's Department. The Public Library is one of the principal depositories for publications received on exchange.

*Functions—As an Instrument for Negotiating Exchanges*

Is the State authority for negotiating international exchanges with other governments. It does not negotiate on behalf of individual Departments, etc., such negotiations being made direct by Departments and organizations themselves.

*Functions—As a Receiving and Distributing Agency*

Aim is primarily to receive incoming publications from other countries, to

distribute them to appropriate Departments and learned societies, etc., and to despatch their outgoing publications. Is the receiving centre for Smithsonian Institution consignments.

#### *Designation*

Public Library of Western Australia, Perth, W.A.

#### *Establishment and Administration*

Became a function of the Library some time after its establishment in 1894. The Library is the principal depository for publications received on exchange.

#### *Functions—As an Instrument for Negotiating Exchanges*

Apart from comprehensive arrangements with the United Kingdom and United States there is no apparent record of negotiations with other governments. Any such negotiations would presumably be handled by the Premier's or Chief Secretary's Department. Exchanges at the institutional level are initiated by the Library or by the departments concerned.

#### *Functions—As a Receiving and Distributing Agency*

Acts as a receiving and distributing agency for State departments, etc., though some receive and despatch publications direct.

#### *Designation*

State Library of Tasmania, Hobart, Tasmania.

#### *Establishment and Administration*

A State Exchanges Committee was provided for in the Libraries Act, 1943, with the resultant exchange service to be a function of the State Library. Owing to lack of suitable accommodation in which to operate, the Committee is at present dormant.

#### *Functions—As an Instrument for Negotiating Exchanges*

Is the State authority for negotiating exchanges with other governments. At present, only comprehensive arrangement in force is with United States. Though not at present in a position to expand its exchange activities, it is the focal point of contact for all matters relating to exchange material.

#### *Functions—As a Receiving and Distributing Agency*

Apart from exchanges received from the Smithsonian Institution, and which are distributed, there is virtually no central exchange of publications, each department being responsible for its own arrangements.

## Reviews of Library Literature

**THE PERSONAL LIBRARY: A Guide to the Book-buyer.** By Lionel McColvin, City Librarian, Westminster, C.B.E., F.L.A., London: Phoenix House, 1953.

The Librarian of Westminster, famed for his theoretical and practical work in the field of public libraries, puts forward some strong reasons why he should devote a volume to the books one should buy rather than borrow.

The book-buyer—he says—has never been so important than he is today. The high cost of the production of books—and British books cost a third less to print and bind than those manufactured in Australia—must be met by the revenue from sales,

or we face two alternatives. One is the publication of books by people who have axes to grind and are willing to publish at a loss to sharpen them; the other is no books at all. If we do not buy the books that we think are worth buying, to the utmost of our financial ability, there will be soon no books to buy or to borrow. And as it is the author's contention that anyone who chooses not to use books does so at his own peril, he proceeds to give the general reader a guide to the books that will give him the greatest benefit.

While Mr. McColvin is at pains to emphasize that it is not his intention to

provide a list of "best books" in actual fact some two-thirds of the volume is devoted to such a list. Catalogues of this sort are difficult to criticize; one must acknowledge the limitation of space and respect the author's personal preferences. Yet one cannot help wondering whether any good purpose is achieved and any real help given to the groping book-buyer in the random mention of some titles under the main classifications. Australia is only represented by Hartley Grattan's symposium and Scott's Short History. No mention is made of Australian literature—or indeed of literature from any part of the British Commonwealth—one even looks in vain for the name of Henry Handel Richardson. A list of modern French novelists omits such names as Gide and Maurois. Amongst others missing are Freud under psychology, Gessell under books for parents, Kafka under contemporary German literature, Keynes under economics, to mention only a few. Still the titles which *are* included represent a fine selection and any personal library on the McColvin lines would do its owner proud.

For the benefit of those who cannot afford, or, in spite of his exhortations, are unwilling to buy books, Mr. McColvin deals briefly with ways and means of borrowing books. He has an easy task here, as he is in the fortunate position to be able to say that "the public library service of this country (Britain) is the best in the world".

Our own network of public libraries would not yet qualify for such a happy statement, and it is almost impossible to assess just how Australian private libraries compare with those in Britain. There can be no doubt though that personal and public libraries are complementary and that each has everything to gain by the vigorous development of the other.—ANDREW FABINYI.

SMITH, C. E.: HOW TO FIND INFORMATION IN LIBRARIES. Sydney, 1952 (N.S.W. Educ. Dept. —Div. of Research, Guidance and Adjustment, Information Bull. No. 19).

This sixteen-page pamphlet has been prepared by Mr. C. E. Smith, B.A., Librarian of the Department of Education of New South Wales, following addresses given by him to Research Officers and Guidance

Officers. The aim of the pamphlet is to help such people to exploit fully the resources of a library, and Mr. Smith feels that his aim can be best achieved by initiating seekers for knowledge into such of the mysteries of the librarian's craft as will be helpful in this regard. To this view I enthusiastically subscribe, having always felt that, when a librarian produces material like a rabbit from a hat, the student would have been much happier to have explored the resources of the library himself and satisfied himself that he had gathered all available relevant matter.

In his selection of details of library organization Mr. Smith has shown excellent judgment and the clarity with which he expounds those details is admirable. He deals with classification, the catalogue including notes on filing arrangement, the organization of pamphlets and periodicals, the *Education Index*, and library lending services. The last section clearly demonstrates the purpose of the earlier sections by laying down a typical procedure to be followed by a reader searching for information. The bibliography holds, perhaps, rather more interest for the librarian than for the user of the library.

Altogether I feel that this pamphlet will be of very great use to serious students who wish to make the best possible use of the library's resources.—C. HOUSDEN.

#### UNESCO SURVEY OF MICROFILM USE, 1951.

Libraries throughout the world have received considerable aid from the Libraries Division of Unesco in the use of microfilm. As a result of a survey undertaken by the Division, an international directory of existing microfilm and photocopying services was published in 1950; it was the first comprehensive guide of its kind.

This directory has been followed by the "Unesco Survey of Microfilm Use, 1951", which is an up-to-date guide (in English and French) to all available models and types of microfilm apparatus and also to current microfilm practices.

The main uses to which microfilm is being put in national and international exchanges of educational, scientific and cultural material are described in the

Survey, for which enquiries were made in 43 countries. The most important part of the publication, however, is the listing, according to country, of approximately 150 models of microfilm equipment that are available. The equipment ranges from the large, and highly mechanized developing machines for microfilm down to simple hand readers. The information given in each case should be sufficient for a potential purchaser or user to make a *preliminary* selection of apparatus to suit his particular requirements.

The Survey is an excellent piece of work and will fill a definite need. In the reviewer's opinion, however, it will still be necessary, before making a *final* selection of equipment to suit one's purpose, actually to examine it or to obtain more complete details about its capabilities from the manufacturer.—H. C. BRIDESON.

**UNION LIST OF SERIALS IN NEW ZEALAND LIBRARIES;** prepared for publication in the National Library Centre under the direction of H. G. Bagnall, Librarian, 1953 and Supplement no. 1, 1953. Published by the National Library Service, Wellington, N.Z., 1953.

The National Library Centre is indeed to be congratulated on issuing at the same moment both the parent volume and first supplement.

The catalogue covers the field which in Australia is covered by both the Union Catalogue of Scientific Periodicals in Australian Libraries, edited by E. R. Pitt, and the Union Catalogue of Periodicals in the Social Sciences and Humanities, compiled by the Commonwealth National Library (Australia). It will be welcomed as an authority on the cataloguing of New Zealand government and non-government serials, and is a splendid example of co-operation in the library world. No doubt it will, as suggested in the Introduction, stimulate the interest of New Zealanders to fill gaps in their library holdings.

The main volume records entries received to the end of 1950, while the supplement comprises additional titles received to September, 1952, as well as including some corrections to the parent volume.

Set up by the process of photolithography, with the rules of entry clearly set out, the

catalogue is easy to follow, the form of entry being much akin to that of "Pitt". One major difference is that whereas in "Pitt" one finds government headings in the English language inverted, where necessary, to bring the "key" word to the fore this practice is not followed in the N.Z. list. Inversion is a matter for individual taste, but it is considered by many to afford a direct and time-saving approach to any comprehensive catalogue. One improvement might be the repetition of the name of a country before all major departmental headings rather than its appearance initially, and thereafter only at the heading of each page. The practice of using dashes, except for sub-headings, is somewhat confusing to a reader.

A useful innovation as compared with "Pitt" is that in most cases the date of the first issue follows the title irrespective of whether or not first issues are held by any library represented in the catalogue.

One inaccuracy in the catalogue points to the difficulties encountered in correctly cataloguing government publications. The writer refers to the entry "Australian council for aeronautics" (p. 65) which states "... as Australia C.S.I.R., Division of aeronautics . . .". The Council, although having its office at the Division of Aeronautics, was never of the Division, being established by the Prime Minister in 1941 as an independent advisory body under the title Australian Advisory Committee on Aeronautics. In 1943, without change of status, the name changed to Australian Council for Aeronautics, and later changed to Advisory Committee on Aeronautical Research. On p. 61 the Division of Aeronautics is referred from Australia, C.S.I.R.O. to the Australian Council for Aeronautics, and again on p. 63 appears as a sub-heading under the Department of Supply and Development. It was always a Division of C.S.I.R., but never of C.S.I.R.O., which was not established until May, 1949. When the work of aeronautical research was transferred in February, 1949, to the Department of Supply the name changed to Aeronautical Research Laboratories. Due to a publisher's error the first few numbers of serials bear the sub-heading

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**CANBERRA — A.C.T.**

Division of Aeronautics instead of Aeronautical Research Laboratories. Against such, cataloguers have no defence and only time and the co-operation of fellow librarians may correct such inaccuracies.

(*Cost to other than N.Z. Libraries £3/10/-; interleaved £4/4/-*)

ADELAIDE L. KENT.

INDEX TO THESES ACCEPTED FOR HIGHER DEGREES IN THE UNIVERSITIES OF GREAT BRITAIN AND IRELAND. Vol. I, 1950-1951. Edited by P. D. Record. Aslib, Lond., 1953. Price £1/5/-.

This venture by Aslib is an attempt to bring some order out of the chaos, presented by the number of theses produced annually in Great Britain by candidates for higher degrees. In the period covered, nearly 3,000 such theses were presented at 20 universities, on subjects ranging from bibliography to chemical technology. As is usual in such theses for doctorates, etc., the subjects are exceedingly specialized and detailed, and represent original work, which may not be located elsewhere.

In Australian universities such papers are usually indexed by the University Library. However, so far no attempt has been made to produce a union list for Australian theses. Aslib realized that much valuable information was being overlooked and consequently this British union index has been assembled.

The index consists of a list of the authors and titles of theses, arranged under broad subject headings with a subject index and an index of authors. One useful feature is the table of availability, which shows whether the holding university library will permit readers to consult, micro-film or borrow.

This publication, which is to be issued annually, will have perhaps only a limited use in Australia, but it is a guide to what may have to be done with Australian theses.

J.P.T.

GRENFELL, DAVID.—PERIODICALS AND SERIALS: THEIR TREATMENT IN SPECIAL LIBRARIES. Aslib, Lond., 1953. Price 12/6.

In the foreword, E. M. R. Ditmas, formerly Director of Aslib, says that "some may criticize the handbook because it caters both for the trained librarian, who should

know already much of the elementary information, and also for the beginner who is experiencing his first contact with periodicals, as tools for research". Even the slight apology implied here is not at all necessary. There is need for an exhaustive manual in any field, a manual which answers, without wasting words, all possible questions. In the field of periodicals and serials, Grenfell's new book seems to be such a manual.

Grenfell is at the moment the Chief Cataloguer of the National Film Library in Britain, but gained his practical experience of periodicals in the early days of Aslib, where he served as information officer. He was responsible for the collection of unsorted periodicals, which moved with Aslib as that growing organization changed one home for another. Without sufficient space, staff or time and only by hard work he was finally able to mould the collection into Aslib's fine periodical service.

While the book is ostensibly written for special librarians, every one of Grenfell's chapters contains practice equally designed for large reference libraries and small school libraries. The subject is treated in an atmosphere of "non-directive counselling". When there are alternative methods for accessions, circulation, display, etc., each method is described with its advantages and disadvantages, and the reader is left to make up his own mind.

As a guide to further references, Grenfell's book is also particularly useful. He cites references in the conventional way at the end of chapters, but then has a 21-page supplementary bibliography, in which each listed item is concisely annotated. This bibliography is alphabetically arranged by subject.

The practising librarian should read Grenfell's book to gain useful slants on current methods, to see whether his own techniques are adequate, or as so often happens, when habit rather than logic pervades a periodical department, his techniques are excessive.

J.P.T.

## Branches

### AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

A meeting of the Branch was called on July 16 to discuss the proposed change in the examination syllabus. Another, to elect councillors for 1954, was held on September 25. Mr. L. Lake, of the Commonwealth National Library, gave an interesting informative and witty talk on children's libraries. After speaking about libraries in general, he told of the progress which had been made in the Children's Library in Canberra.

On October 1, the Governor-General, on behalf of the Queen, presented the National Library with a photostatic copy of the journal of Captain Cook's second voyage.

Recently the National Library has been converting for use in rodded drawers many of its old cards which were previously without holes. Four drawers from the catalogue were sent to the Government Printer at one time. In the drawers were mixed holed and unholed cards. The Government Printer punched holes straight through all the cards, rather surprisingly without much trouble, and quite successfully. Very little significant typing was lost on the cards. A duplicate card was obtainable in the shelf list and could be referred to for any essential words excised.

Mr. N. Lynravn leaves on October 10 for London to be the Commonwealth National Library Liaison Officer in the United Kingdom. Mr. I. Raymond will leave towards the end of the year for New York to be Liaison Officer in place of Miss L. Foley who has been there for many years.

Miss C. Schneider of the External Affairs Library has gone to Canada and hopes later to go to the United States to do a course at the Columbia School of Library Science. We extend our best wishes to them all.

Miss M. Cox, who has been in charge of the Works Department Library, has been appointed to the Library of the Bureau of Census and Statistics.

Miss J. Cuskey, who had been on the staff of the Australian National University, and is now on the Extension Staff of the National Library, has gone to start a library at Alice Springs, which is due to open on October 7. She spent a short time in Darwin, the Library Headquarters for that area, conferring with Miss Bradmore.

Miss H. Gubbins of the National Library was married on August 7 to Mr. G. Chodorowski of the Archives Division. Miss V. Ludzitis of the Canberra University College has announced her engagement to Mr. B. Hickey. We wish them every happiness in the future.

### NEW SOUTH WALES

#### Meetings

A meeting of much interest was held on July 14 when Professor R. M. Hartwell, Head of the School of Humanities and Professor of Economic History in the New South Wales University of Technology, gave an address entitled *The Library and the Scholar*. About 100 members were present to hear this provocative and stimulating address. Professor Hartwell gave his impressions of Australian and overseas libraries in which he had studied and of the scholar's requirements in libraries. His general view was that libraries and scholars, academic or other, were interdependent. Two of his particular criticisms were that State and University library collections in Australia were too general and that there was too much delay in making books available to the scholar after they had been received in libraries. He advocated subject specialization in the State and University libraries and speeding up of technical processes by means such as central cataloguing. The lively discussion that followed showed how an Affiliate Member such as Professor Hartwell can make a valuable contribution to the Association.

The Section for Work with Children and Young People sponsored a meeting held on

July 24. At this meeting it was decided to establish a New South Wales Branch of the Section and provisional officers and committee members were appointed. Mrs. M. Cotton, Children's Librarian at the Randwick Municipal Library, who was appointed as provisional President, afterwards spoke about children's library services in New Zealand.

#### **Visiting Librarians**

Two librarians from Indonesia and Pakistan are visiting Australian libraries under the auspices of UNESCO and the Colombo plan. Mr. J. P. J. Kaparang, head of the People's Libraries in East Indonesia section of the Department of Mass Education, is here under the auspices of UNESCO, and Mr. A. E. M. S. Haq, B.A., Head Assistant of the Home Records Department of the Government of East Bengal, is here under the Colombo plan.

After visiting the Australian Capital Territory they reached New South Wales in July, and went on to Victoria at the end of September. While in New South Wales they visited the Public Library of New South Wales, the Fisher Library, several Departmental libraries, the Young District Public Library, and most of the public libraries in the Sydney metropolitan and Newcastle areas.

#### **Central Coast Regional Branch**

A vote of members in this region has been taken and the necessary majority for the formation of the branch obtained.

#### **Co-operation Between Branch and Branch Sections**

A sub-committee appointed by the New South Wales Branch Council, consisting of representatives of the Council and the committees of the various Branch Sections, has considered and reported on the possibility of securing co-operation between the Branch and the Branch Sections. This move was made because the new constitution of the Association has created Sections with their own Branches in New South Wales which are independent of the New South Wales Branch itself. The sub-committee in its report recommended continuance of the practice begun earlier in the

year of co-ordinating meeting programmes and giving all meetings joint publicity; co-ordination of recruiting drives; and representation of each Branch Section or Section without a Branch in New South Wales on the New South Wales Branch Council.

#### **Government Libraries**

A permanent committee on the disposal of public records has been set up by the Public Service Board, and an archives liaison officer has been appointed in each Government Department (the Departmental Librarian where there is one) to co-operate with the Principal Librarian of the Public Library of New South Wales. The liaison officer's job is to notify the Principal Librarian whenever old records become available for disposal. Three additional Library Assistants have been appointed to the staff of the Public Library of New South Wales to permit three experienced officers to be employed on the organization of public records in collaboration with the Public Service Board and the Government Departments concerned.

The Sydney Technical College Library, which also serves the New South Wales University of Technology, acquired new premises in May. The new building, constructed of aluminium prefabricated units, is specially designed for library purposes. Its reading room is 88' long and 40' wide, seating 150 readers. A feature of the design is the three wings off the reading room for the cataloguing and accessions departments and stacks. Fluorescent lighting is used throughout the building with the exception of the stacks. The Librarian and staff, having now recovered from the exertion of moving 35,000 volumes, plus further thousands of unbound periodicals, pamphlets and trade catalogues, would be pleased to show visitors over the new premises.

#### **Public Libraries**

One hundred and four councils have now put their adoption of the Library Act of 1939 into effect. They consist of 11 metropolitan municipalities and one metropolitan shire, 51 country municipalities and 41 country shires. Altogether they serve a population of 1,681,029. New libraries have

been, or are being, established by the Sutherland Shire Council, Bankstown Municipal Council, Kiama Municipal Council, Scone Municipal Council, and Crookwell Shire Council. A conference of Councils in the Upper Hunter Region was convened in August at Muswellbrook by the Muswellbrook Municipal Council and Muswellbrook Shire Council jointly, resulting in a request to the Library Board of New South Wales for a survey of the region.

The Wollongong Public Library is planning to establish a film service which will include the lending of films supplied on loan by the New South Wales Film Council and an information service about films available.

#### TASMANIA

The July meeting of the Tasmanian Branch was held at the Library of Parliament, Hobart. Members heard a talk on the Library of Parliament by Mr. C. K. Murphy, Clerk of the House and Librarian to Parliament, who afterwards conducted members on a tour of inspection of the Library. A paper on "Archives and library work" was read by Mr. P. R. Eldershaw of the Archives Section of the State Library.

The Library Seminar papers of Professor E. H. Behymer were discussed at the August meeting, the discussion being introduced by Mr. D. H. Borchardt and Mr. A. F. Johnson.

In September Miss Joyce Boniwell, formerly Librarian of the Lady Clark Memorial Children's Library and who has recently spent a year in New Zealand, spoke on "New Zealand Libraries". Miss Boniwell gave members an outline of the library network in New Zealand and a very clear picture of the services rendered by New Zealand libraries.

The drive for membership is continuing. All municipal library authorities have been approached and this has been followed up with the despatch of the leaflets prepared by the Promotions Committee.

The Youth Book Week was held from September 20 to 27. Exhibitions in Hobart were held at the State Library, the Adult Education rooms, the Tasmanian Museum, the Tourist Bureau, and Bookshops and Stores; broadcasts were given over the

A.B.C.; and activities in the country were sponsored by Municipal Public Libraries.

Mr. D. H. Borchardt, M.A., has been appointed Librarian at the University of Tasmania in succession to Mr. L. Milburn, B.A., F.R.S.A., F.L.A., who resigned recently to return to England.

#### QUEENSLAND

On July 22 a general meeting was held at the Lyceum Club rooms, our speaker for the evening being Mr. J. L. Pring, Oxley Librarian, whose subject was "Impressions of Libraries in the Southern Australian States". During November/December, 1952, Mr. Pring, under the auspices of the Library Board of Queensland, visited Sydney, Canberra, Melbourne and Adelaide to study library methods for the collection and preservation of Australiana, including archives. He gave a broad outline of his experiences, and impressed us especially with his account of the helpfulness and hospitality he had encountered wherever he went.

At our next general meeting, on September 10, also at the Lyceum Club rooms, Mr. J. L. Stapleton, State Librarian, and Mr. H. B. Taylor, M.L.A., were re-elected as Representative Councillors. Afterwards, we were privileged to have an informal talk on "The Brisbane Municipal Library Service and its Objectives", by Mr. R. Muir, Municipal Librarian. The South Brisbane Municipal Library, headquarters of the system, is at present being renovated under Mr. Muir's artistic direction. The reading room with two walls painted primrose and two painted cloud grey, with its streamlined desk and other improvements, provided as it is twice weekly with flowers from the City Parks Department, should be one of the most attractive in Brisbane.

The Discussion Group has continued its meetings, attended mainly by student and professional members. "Music Libraries" was the subject of Miss Jane Oakeley's paper on July 6. She spoke from personal experience, being fortunate enough to have worked in the Gramophone Lending Library while she was on the staff of the Westminster City Libraries in 1950/51. Miss Anne Bird, of the Queensland Braille

Writing Association, will speak on Braille "Books" at the next meeting, to be held on September 29.

Miss A. Meyers, B.A., has resigned from her position as cataloguer in the Main Library of the University of Queensland and has gone abroad to widen her experience.

The Library Board of Queensland has lent the services of Mr. H. F. Cornelius, B.A., of the Public Library staff, to the Kingaroy Shire Council for a period of one month. During that time, Mr. Cornelius will train the local librarian in modern methods and organize the book collection in preparation for the opening of the Municipal Library.

### SOUTH AUSTRALIA

In order to promote interest in the Special Libraries Section all technical and special librarians were invited to the General Meeting in July as it was designed to launch that Section in this State at that meeting. Miss Valda Searle, the Convener, gave an outline of the L.A.A.; of its aims and objects, and of how special librarians could benefit by joining the Association. Mr. Sterling Casson, Secretary of the Special Libraries Section, spoke of the proposed programme in S.A. Mr. Peter Russell of the Mines Department gave an illustrated talk on "Periodicals in a special library" and Mr. Hanz Zwillingberg of the Broken Hill Assoc. Smelters rounded off a most successful evening speaking on "Practices in the B.H.A.S. Library".

The August meeting took the form of a visit to the newly opened Advertiser Printing Works, the largest of its type in Australia. Dr. John Black of the Waite Institute spoke to members in September on "Some aspects of book collecting" with special reference to his pre-Elizabethan drama collection, many samples of which were displayed.

The pamphlet being prepared by the S.A. Library Promotion sub-committee to spread the gospel of free libraries in S.A. is at present being edited by the Convener, Miss Cynthia Paltridge, and will be circulated for criticism before publication to interstate

Library Authorities who contributed valuable material.

Libraries have been given prominence of late by the A.B.C. with radio talks by Mr. H. C. Brideson, interviews of Miss Jean Whyte and Mrs. W. G. Buick, and a feature on "Australian Reading Habits".

The large collection of material on Library Science in the Public Library of South Australia is being classified according to Ranganathan's Colon Classification by members of the Colon Study Circle under the guidance of Miss Jean Whyte. Since her departure to the Chicago University Mr. George Buick has undertaken supervision of this project. Colon has been adopted to demonstrate a synthetic classification under actual conditions.

### VICTORIA

#### Heidelberg

Heidelberg, which has a population of over 50,000 and covers 42 square miles, is the largest city area in Victoria.

Its size and the distribution of its population centres, including new housing settlements, make it the ideal city for a mobile service. (In many respects, it resembles Kur-ringai municipality, N.S.W.)

To serve this area, the principle of development per bookmobile rather than branch by branch was adopted by the City of Heidelberg Council in co-operation with the Free Library Service Board of Victoria, the Heidelberg Library Association, and the Heidelberg Civic Fund, in June, 1953. The total sum available for immediate expenditure is £3,500 (which includes the Library Board subsidy).

The initial cost of a bookmobile, after all, is only that of a small branch library.

It will be a three-ton, bus-type vehicle, based on the Gerstenslager specifications, but also including some of the features of mobile services in England.

Shelves will probably be of strong aluminium alloy, which may allow one additional shelf all round as compared with heavy wooden shelving.

The vehicle will carry 3,500 volumes, including children's books, which will occupy the lower three shelves.

In order to lighten the loading which would be required if batteries and generators were used, arrangements will be made for the vehicles to plug in at various stopping points for power required for lighting and heating.

The book stock in the whole system will be fluid, based on the Central Library at the Town Hall, Ivanhoe and also drawing upon the Branch Library undergoing re-organization at Heidelberg.

Mr. F. A. Sharr, B.A., F.L.A., Executive Officer of the Library Board of Western Australia, who will be visiting the Eastern States during September-October, will address the Branch on October 1. His subject is "My Task in Western Australia".

#### Library Week

Speakers will address a wide variety of gatherings during the week October 12 to 19 in both metropolitan and country areas.

It is expected that the Award for Victorian Municipal Librarians will shortly be announced. This is the result of some years of negotiation, and will ensure that a reasonable standard of salaries will be observed throughout the various municipalities.

The earlier announcement this year of the results of the Preliminary Certificate Examinations was greatly appreciated by the examinees.

Miss Peggy Kennelly, formerly of the United States Information Library, is at present en route to Lehigh University where she will take up an appointment in the Library. On the same trip is Miss Nona Miller, formerly of the Library School, who is taking a post-graduate course in the University of Illinois.

All members of the Branch heard with great regret of the closing of the United States Information Library. There has been a succession of happy directors in Helen Wessells, Geraldine Le May and Thelma Passo. These people always ensured that the maximum service was rendered to the users. The atmosphere was always warm and genial, and the Library will be greatly missed by its many users.

The Trustees of the Public Library of Victoria have re-elected Dr. C. Irving-

Benson, O.B.E., as Chairman, Mr. H. A. M. Campbell, editor of the *Age*, Vice-Chairman, and Mr. A. E. McMicken as Treasurer.

As part of the plans for specialization, the Trustees of the Public Library of Victoria expect shortly to open the Australian Collection adjacent to the Main Reading Room. The material housed there will form the nucleus of the projected LaTrobe Library.

A revised edition of "Librarianship as a career" has been printed and the Prospectus for the Library Training School for 1954 is now ready.

#### WESTERN AUSTRALIA

The Library Board has published its first annual report, a statement of policy with the title, "A Library Service for Western Australia". In introducing the report at a Press conference, the Chairman of the Board, Professor Alexander, explained that the State-wide service that was aimed at would, in a normal working year, cost something like seventy-five to one hundred thousand pounds. Of this expenditure approximately half would be contributed by local authorities, chiefly in the provision of accommodation, staffing and incidentals, while the Board, administering the State Government's grant, would undertake to furnish to local libraries a supply of fully processed books and to maintain other central services, including the provision of books to isolated readers.

The Board had rejected the idea of a straight pound-for-pound subsidy to completely independent local authorities and believed that the principle of a State-wide mobile book stock would not only solve the problem of maintaining a sufficient supply of fresh books in local libraries but would also effect considerable financial economies.

Professor Alexander announced that the Board had been informed that the State Government would accept responsibility for a grant of £35,000 in a normal year and would provide half that amount in the present financial year, in which the Board would be mainly engaged in building up its central staff and in ordering and processing books in preparation for the opening of the first free libraries under its jurisdiction.

## Special Libraries

### A SPECIAL SECTION

#### **Victorian Union List of Education Periodicals**

The Librarian of the Australian Council for Educational Research, Miss C. Dwyer, has done some preliminary work on the compilation of a union list of periodicals in the fields of education and psychology. It is intended that the list will cover holdings in the libraries concerned in Melbourne. A number of libraries have offered willing co-operation in the project.

#### **Gadget Exhibition in Melbourne**

After the Annual General Meeting of the Victorian Branch Section in Melbourne next month, there is going to be a display of library equipment and gadgets, currently in use at a number of special libraries. Members will be notified shortly of the details of the event and its location.

#### **South Australia Starts Its Section Branch**

In July, the South Australian Branch of the section got away to a good start, with a meeting sponsored by their L.A.A. State Branch. The newly elected convener, Miss V. Searle, and Secretary/Treasurer, Mr. S. Casson, were introduced to members and then Mr. Peter Russell of the Mines Department and Mr. Hans Zwillenberg of the Broken Hill Associated Smelters Pty. Ltd. told tales of special libraries in action.

All known special librarians were rounded up for this meeting and several who have never had any inclination to join the Association are now proving quite enthusiastic and feel this is something just for them.

The first aim of S.A. Branch Special Libraries Section is to get to know each other personally and professionally by inspecting as many libraries as possible. To do this, it is proposed that meetings be held every two months in a different library each time. The first of these meetings was the August gathering at C.S.I.R.O. Bio-

chemistry and General Nutrition Library, where questions were fired at Miss Pat Smith.

The State's representative on the Federal Section is Miss J. Susman.

#### **Special Library Course in New South Wales**

In the current series of evening lectures for qualifying candidates in N.S.W., conducted by the Public Library of N.S.W., Library School, twelve lectures on special librarianship were included. The lecturer was Miss Joan Tighe of the Department of Public Health Library.

#### **Directory of Special Libraries in Sydney**

The 1950 edition of this directory has been out of print for some time. Recently Mr. Hankin, the Librarian of the Metropolitan Water, Sewerage and Drainage Board Library, when making a copy of the original list for himself, kindly had some extra copies reprinted. The Directory may be obtained by libraries, who need it, on application to J. Tighe, Librarian, Department of Public Health Library, 52 Bridge Street, Sydney.

#### **Medical Librarianship—First International Congress**

The first International Congress on Medical Librarianship was held in London from July 21 to 25, and was attended by 315 delegates from 32 countries and three international organizations.

The Congress consisted of symposia on the role of the medical librarian in the world, on education and training for medical librarianship, on the centralization of medical library resources and on international co-operation in this field.

A short review of proceedings appears in the *British Medical Journal*, August 1, 1953, pp. 274-5.

## Library for Classroom Films

By C. C. LINZ, M.A.,

*Staff Inspector in Charge of Visual Education, N.S.W. Education Department.*

The intellect of the common man in this twentieth century has been concerned with a multiplicity of interests ranging from World Wars to end all wars to electric disposal units to end all garbage problems in the kitchen. Both the world-wide range of momentous decisions and the meticulous attention to technical details have been developed and sustained against a background of marvellous facilities for the communication of ideas. Photography in both its moving picture and still forms has made a distinctive and notable contribution to such communication in the home, theatre, and in the school. It is in the latter field of development that this article is concerned.

Visual Education, or, more precisely, visual aid to teaching, has been stimulated by and developed through the use of film in the schools until special agencies for production and distribution are now regarded as a necessary part of educational administration. In New South Wales, this service to Public Schools was commenced in 1938 and is now continued through the Visual Education Centre at Burwood.

The Burwood establishment houses a library of 6568 16mm films specially selected for their value in the accepted educational situation in the school. There are 1050 separate titles, of which 37 are in colour and the balance in black and white. Their distribution in relation to pupils' ages is:

Infants School (pupils aged 5-8 years)—

210 titles.

Primary School (pupils aged 8-11 years)

—525 titles.

Secondary School (pupils aged 11-17 years)—315 titles.

The number of schools possessing 16mm projectors is 704 and all are eligible to borrow three films, plus additional films for special sections, for a maximum period of ten days per borrowing. In many instances a much shorter borrowing period occurs.

The film library uses the customary library organization of Accession Register, Shelf Lists, and Catalogue Cards. The Dewey System has been adapted quite successfully both to catalogue and shelf arrangement of films. The "Roto-Dex" Card Index is employed for ease and accuracy in booking films—a crucial point in the whole organization of the library.

Although it is generally accepted that 20 copies of each film are necessary to provide service for 600 schools, the library possesses an inadequate supply of copies of films for an oversupply of schools. Hence, booking arrangements are constantly called upon to achieve the impossible.

In 1952, 34,468 films were borrowed and in the first and second terms of the current year, the total borrowings reached 25,737 films. The average borrowing per school in 1952 was 55 films, but it is apparent that the average in 1953 will be more than 70 films. Even with such an extraordinary use of the material available, the special nature of a service to schools which require films to illustrate approximately the same curriculum aggravates the problem of making suitable substitutions for films which are temporarily not available. During the current year, the library staff has constantly been close to achieving the impossible and substitutions are less than 5% of the total borrowings.

The intensive nature of the lending service is perhaps the distinctive feature of the film library. Another matter of some interest is that film damage has been negligible during the last three years when it was decided to wax all films before issue to schools, and it appears likely that the average life of a film will be approximately 200 borrowings. This compares more than favourably with the overseas statistics of film use.

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In addition to the 16mm motion picture film library, the Burwood Visual Education Centre houses a 35mm strip film library. This is being catalogued at present according to the Dewey System, but this type of arrangement has not been applied to shelf arrangement.

There are 63 titles in the strip film library with 20 copies of each film. The Centre also administers, for the time being, the strip film library for the United States Information Library—262 titles with an average of three copies for each title. The administration of this aspect of the library is still being organized, but during the last term 83 schools borrowed 332 strip films from the Visual Education library, while 225 schools borrowed 900 strips from the United States Information Library.

The major service of the strip film library rests on a free issue of 90 strip films to each of the 1100 schools having strip film projectors. Hence, the library in this case is housed in each school and the problem of management and use rests with the individual school administration. Since timing is such an important factor in all teaching procedures, it would be preferable for each school also to have its own 16mm library to use precisely when required, but this is precluded by the average cost of £20 per film—the average cost of a strip film is approximately 2/-.

The Visual Education Centre is concerned with the production of film strips and its production programme for this year will provide for approximately 80 new strip films. These films will be issued to the individual school strip film libraries as production is completed. In addition to this, strip films are purchased following upon appraisal from overseas and interstate sources and these also are supplied at no cost to the individual schools.

From this, it will be seen that while the film library has its framework supplied by library techniques developed in relation to books, there are also special characteristic problems related to the film. Film repair is possibly much easier than book repair, but, on the other hand, books do not have to be checked and rewound, or with the same speed as films. Booking requires a careful estimate of the time the film will lose in travelling from the library to the school, and a margin of two days is permitted for the film to be checked, rewound and issued to the next borrower. Although the life of the film in relation to the number of borrowings may be impressive, this life in relation to time is possibly less than many books, and certainly the type of book which is used by scholars. For the time being administrative procedures are deliberately flexible since the nature of the film material and also the ways in which it may be used are both developing rapidly.

## The Distribution of 16mm Films Through Libraries

By ALLAN HORTON, B.A.,

*Librarian, N.S.W. Film Council.*

Fundamentally there are three types of service in relation to films that any library can give its users. The first is to maintain a file of information about films and their sources. The second is to hold and supply films to meet the borrower's general and specific needs. The third is to supply viewing facilities.

Catalogues and lists issued by film libraries should be readily available to borrowers who require them. The catalogues of the Film Division, Commonwealth National Library, of the relevant State film body, of other government bodies, or consular offices and business organizations, as well as those of distributors of religious

and entertainment films, may be held in a file. It is important that this information be kept up to date. Holdings may change quickly particularly in those fields where films are intended for propaganda or public relations use.

A service of the kind outlined here can be given in connection with the normal library reference service. When a borrower requires a film of a certain title or one on a specific topic, he may be directed to the relevant catalogues.

If a request for information of this type cannot be answered from the catalogues held, the inquiry should be referred to the State centre.

In a special library I would suggest that the Librarian should try to locate films in the specific field of the library and should list them. Entries could be made on coloured cards and inserted in the main catalogue under subject with a reference from the title.

An improved service is given where the library holds films on its shelves. Quite a number of industrial concerns, government departments and educational institutions now have their own films. The library is the logical place to store these.

The public library has no such source available and because of the high cost of films and the restricted budgets of most libraries it is not possible to purchase films. Except in the case of extreme local interest it would seem uneconomic at present for any municipal or shire library to purchase films. To overcome this, some United States libraries have co-operatively purchased films which are circulated in turn by each of the subscribing libraries. These are supplemented by films donated or lent on long-term loan by their sponsors. In addition many of these libraries give the service of obtaining films not available locally from other sources without charge to the borrower in many cases.

In N.S.W. during the past year the N.S.W. Film Council has lent selected public libraries, who have applied, a trunk of about 25 films. These trunks are changed monthly. Films from them are intended to meet the local demand from organizations

for general films. Films are not available for loan to individuals. In addition to this the Council supplies films for specific needs through the library as required. There is no charge for these services, the only expense being the cost of return freight.

If a library decides to hold films it will require certain equipment. A pair of heavy duty rewinders and a splicer would be needed for the examination, and if necessary, the repair of films between screenings. These at present together cost £20.

Whether the library should not only provide the films, but also facilities for screening them depends on local conditions. If local organizations have projectors and if a hall suitable for use as a theatrette is available little is to be gained by provision of these services by the library. A directory of equipment available should be prepared in this case and made available. If suitable equipment or accommodation is not available locally, the library should supply these. If a projector is supplied it is recommended that an operator be provided with it.

A number of libraries are regularly screening films to their patrons and the general public. In some cases an attempt is made to relate films to library material but often they are shown for their informational value alone or to attract people to the library. This is particularly true of children's libraries. In some libraries films on "how to use the library" have been used.

To achieve satisfactory distribution the educational film needs the help of libraries which in turn have much to gain from circulating films, in arousing new interests and contacting more people. Because of the physical form of films, standard library methods may be used in handling them. Because of similarities between the content and purpose of books and films, because of the film's advantages in the field of mass communication, because the film can provide a factual picture of the past and point a way to a better future, there is a case for its distribution through libraries.

If Australian librarians feel that their libraries exist to provide information and education, films have a place in their future planning.

### N.S.W. Meeting on Editing Technical Papers

The November 6 meeting of the N.S.W. Branch of the Special Libraries Association will be addressed by Dr. Noble of the C.S.I.R.O. The Branch has already received over seventy acceptances to its invitations, both from members and non-members and those who have not yet replied should do so without delay.

### THE SPECIAL LIBRARIES SECTION

This is the second issue to have a special section, something more than a paragraph or two, contributed by a Section, that for Special Libraries. The material provided is interesting, but some may ask, is it all peculiar to this Section? Mr. Horton deals with the distribution of films which are not limited to any subject field, and with their distribution through public libraries. His article is certainly of general interest, and might also be considered more appropriate to the Public Libraries Section. That by Mr. Linz is on the use and distribution of films and film strips in schools.

There is clearly a question of demarcation, not unlike that which has arisen in the examinations. A type of librarianship insists on a paper on its type, and then the examiners set problems which are not peculiar to that type, for example one on reference work in university libraries may not be different in question and answer from one on reference work in general public libraries.

There can be generous allowance for overlapping, but if we are to have specialization in the Association, in its organization, and in its *Journal* and its examinations, it may be considered on reflection that it must rest finally on some genuine differences and have some demarcation.

### SECTION FOR LIBRARY WORK WITH CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

#### N.S.W.

At a meeting on July 24, 1953, a New South Wales Branch was formed, with Mrs. M. Cotton, of Randwick Municipal Library, as President, and Miss D. Ryan,

of the School Library Service, as Secretary-Treasurer. An Advisory Committee of representatives from high school libraries, technical schools, primary schools, private schools, etc., was also elected at this meeting. Mrs. Cotton represents the children's section of public libraries. Her wealth of experience was apparent in the address she gave at the conclusion of the meeting. Her subject was "Children's Libraries in New Zealand", from which country she has recently returned. She was able to make useful comparisons between New Zealand and New South Wales.

The New South Wales Branch has set out clear and definite aims for itself and already started to work for their fulfilment.

### Queensland

The municipalities of South Brisbane, Ingham and Halifax have opened children's libraries. Townsville also has a children's library to be opened shortly.

Reports from school libraries show that 60,000 books were added and £17,774 spent on books in the period up to June 30, 1952.

The Public Library of Queensland conducted a course for teacher-librarians in January. Twelve teachers attended.

Queenslanders seem to have problems common to us all—for example, no space to spare in schools, where there are insufficient classrooms, let alone libraries.

### South Australia

Declarations from South Australians interested in children's libraries are beginning to come in from S.A. corresponding secretary, Miss B. Birch. There are no municipal children's libraries in S.A., and few teacher-librarians in school libraries, but there is an active South Australian Book Council and the Public Library of South Australia rotates its staff so that a great number have had experience in the Children's Library and in the Country Children's Book Service.

The South Australians sound few in number but keen.

E. WARNER,  
Corresponding Secretary.

## BOARD OF EXAMINATION

### Examination Results, 1953

#### **Australian Capital Territory Preliminary Examination**

*Merit:*

Hampton, Judith Marion  
Reynolds, Jennifer Mary

*Pass:*

Baldwin, Brian Sydney  
Barry, Carmel Philomene  
Beikoff, Coral Irene  
Broadhead, Henry Stewart  
Brooks, Laurel Sydney  
Crawford, Margaret Elizabeth  
Burns, Una Millicent  
Davies, Mary Grace Elizabeth  
Eccles, Alice Catherine  
Harrington, Shirley  
Key, Jocelyn Elizabeth  
Marchant, Leslie Ronald  
Phippard, Richard  
Waught, Margaret Irene

#### **Australian Capital Territory Qualifying Examination**

*Pass in Five Papers:*

Heseltine, Ann Elizabeth

*Pass in Four Papers:*

Barber, Janet Clare  
Cox, Margaret Heather  
Gubbins, Heather Welch  
Smith, Helen Elaine

*Pass in Three Papers:*

Leaper, Dorothy May  
Neilsen, Nigel James Bruce

*Pass in Two Papers:*

Campbell-Smith, Clare  
Cook, Norma Gertrude  
Schneider, Carol Mary  
Sprod, Thomas Daniel

#### **New South Wales Preliminary Examination**

*Pass:*

Abbott, Rosemary Stratford  
Bailey, Jean  
Balderson, Margaret  
Banks, Patricia Margaret

Bastian, Josephine Marea  
Beck, Frederick Arthur George  
Blackadder, Helen Elaine  
Boden, Jean Mary  
Brown, Colleen Mary  
Burt, Patricia Mary  
Callanan, Marie Claire  
Clark, Anna Elizabeth  
Clark, Marion Margaret  
Cross, Pauline Susan  
Crosthwaite, Patricia Anne  
Curran, Patricia  
Dare, Fay Lorraine  
de Cuevas, Georgina  
Edwards, Jill  
Everett, Kay Jean  
Forsyth, Jeanette Ann  
Giles, Margaret Joan  
Green, Pamela Winifred  
Griffin, Barbara Joan  
Hannon, Margaret Mary  
Hughes, Ruth Jackson  
Hunt, Peter  
Hunt, Susan  
Johnson, Janice Claire  
Kearns, Kathleen  
Kimber, Gillian  
Kuttna, Marie Anita  
Linaker, Denise Laura  
Little, Jan Koré Fay  
Lum, Judith Anne  
Luttrell, Greta Ann  
McBurney, Louisa Jane Yabsley  
McCann, Pauline Joan  
McCunnie, Brian Thomas  
McGrath, Pauline Margaret  
McKay, Heather Jean  
McLean, Jill Campbell  
Maher, Elva Mary  
Miller, David Lobb  
Mills, Joan Olwyn  
Milward-Bason, Donna Annette  
Mort, Anne Shirley  
Murray, Heather Betty May  
O'Shannessy, Patricia Colleen  
Park, Sarah Ann

Pead, Esme Rose  
 Pearson, Joan Ruth  
 Phillips, Joan Patricia  
 Proctor, Grace Forbes  
 Robin, Yvonne Kathleen  
 Samways, Patricia Rosemary  
 Saunderson, Helen Madeleine  
 Simmons, Claire Rosemary  
 Simmons, Rosemary Goode  
 Smith, Ann Marshall  
 Stonehill, Shirley  
 Sullivan, Moya Mary  
 Taylor, Pamela Ann  
 Trevivian, Pamela Lesley  
 Warren, Josephine Rose  
 Watson, Patricia Mary  
 Watt, Pamela Mary  
 Woolmington, Jean

**New South Wales  
 Qualifying Examination**

*Pass in Six Papers:*

Hutchins, Frederick John (with Merit Q4)  
 Milne, Theodora Emily  
 Webb, Edward Frank

*Pass in Four Papers:*

Butler, Bedford Dick William  
 King, Alison (with Merit Q1)  
 Perks, Gwendoline Joan  
 Scougall, Alison Adria (with Merit Q4)  
 Woodward, Helen Chaseley (with Merit Q1)

*Pass in Three Papers:*

Ashton, Thelma Elsie  
 Cuskey, Joy Ida  
 Drew, Ruth Irene  
 Hicks, Jean Shirley  
 Macallister, John Ferguson  
 Miller, Margaret Mary (with Merit Q3B)  
 O'Reilly, Mary Kathleen  
 Randall, Margaret  
 Robertson, Ruth Helen  
 Shobridge, Elaine Edith  
 Thompson, Elsie St. Ledger

*Pass in Two Papers:*

Allen, Elsie Anne  
 Barwell, Margaret Joan  
 Brolly, Margaret  
 Charteris, Frances Joan

Doust, Russell Fletcher  
 Dyce, Jean Bell  
 Ellis, John Frederick  
 Fardell, Gladys Joyce  
 Heath, Jean  
 Heeley, Dorothy Margaret  
 Johns, Ada Winifred  
 Lewis, Betty  
 McNevin, Neil  
 Snow, Valerie Joy  
 Sowell, Charles Keith  
 Westerway, Peter Brian

**Queensland  
 Preliminary Examination**

*Merit:*

Macmillan, Ann

*Pass:*

Catchpoole, Anne Elizabeth  
 Collocott, Felicity Clare  
 Dobson, Lesbia Constance Alma  
 Eldershaw-Wilson, Heather Edith  
 Harrison, Margaret Florence  
 Hoyling, Jean Henrietta  
 Jacobsen, Elizabeth Gerda  
 McCorkindale, Shirley Mary  
 McDonnell, Josephine Clare  
 McDougall, Maizella Margaret  
 Novakoski, Margaret Elizabeth  
 Travers, Briony Jane  
 Yakimoff, Galina

**Queensland  
 Qualifying Examination**

*Pass in Six Papers:*

Oakeley, Jane Stirling (with Merit Q2 and Q4)

*Pass in Four Papers:*

Brown, Christine  
 Power, Lola Winifred

*Pass in Three Papers:*

Cornelius, Herbert Francis

*Pass in Two Papers:*

Brown, Maureen Vera  
 Huish, Gloria May  
 Krohn, Edith Muriel  
 Melville, Corinna Edith  
 Meyers, Alison Amalie  
 Schindler, Charles  
 Young, Lesley Ellen

**South Australia  
Preliminary Examination**

*Pass:*

Bettison, Margaret Selina  
 Burns, Marjorie Ruth  
 Hemmings, Joan Margaret  
 Lotze, Ruth Mary  
 MacRae, Julia Anne  
 Milne, Annie Johnson  
 Moore, Dorothy Jean  
 Penhall, Suzanne  
 Playford, John Drysdale  
 Thompson, Eric Albert  
 Turner, Jean

**South Australia  
Qualifying Examination**

*Pass in Three Papers:*

Olding, Raymond Knox

*Pass in Two Papers:*

Batley, Josephine Mary  
 Byrne, Bernadette Marie Therese  
 Correll, Shirley Edith  
 Hand, Elizabeth Joyce  
 Harslett, Gwenda Tancred  
 Leader, Suzanne Mary  
 Owen, Gwenyth Winsome

**Tasmania  
Preliminary Examination**

*Pass:*

Bulman, Dawn  
 Cowie, Frances Adele Seranette  
 Laskey, Mary Elain  
 Mulcahy, Bridget Lesley  
 Orr, Neta Dorothy  
 Richardson, Christine Dorothy  
 Ryan, Clare Gertrude

**Tasmania  
Qualifying Examination**

*Pass in Four Papers:*

Borchardt, Dietrich Hans  
 Rennie, Theo Elma

*Pass in Three Papers:*

Pitt, Margaret Jessie

*Pass in Two Papers:*

Dunn, Leonard James  
 Francis, Coralie Florence Claisen  
 Robertson, Jenny Ann

**Victoria  
Preliminary Examination**

*Merit:*

Brereton, Peter David  
 Tindall, Jean Cassandra  
 Tucker, Marjorie Clare

*Pass:*

Alexander, Dorothy Judith  
 Allen, Catherine Avery  
 Ballard, Helena Jane  
 Banfield, Wendy Therese  
 Bennett, Charmaine Rachel  
 Boetje, Louis Norma  
 Bray, Vira  
 Bremer, Heather Joan  
 Brockner, Waltraut  
 Burford, Pauline Ann  
 Burge, Mavis Eva  
 Burns, Ailsa Milligan  
 Caffin, Dorothy Margaret  
 Cameron, Mary Lachlan  
 Capell, Patricia Mary  
 Cerini, Lynette Elaine  
 Coleman, Barbara Ann  
 Cornell, Jane Annette  
 Davey, Lois Jean  
 de Beaurepaire, Yvonne Alyssum  
 Ditchburn, Marcella Bernadette  
 Driver, Joan Margaret  
 Emery, Patsy Ethel  
 Fenton, Janis Aileen  
 Fitzgerald, Marie Ellen  
 Foote, Wendy Vicars  
 Green, Annie Eleanor  
 Grieve, Margaret Bronwen  
 Gwilliam, Helen  
 Halford, Anne Maydwell  
 Hallandal, Joy Lynette  
 Hargreaves, Margaret  
 Hassall, Elizabeth Janette  
 Hosking, Shirley Agnes  
 Hynes, George  
 Kelleher, Joan  
 Kelly, Julia Nanette  
 Kenward, Judith Lenore  
 Kimber, Wilfred Charles  
 Kirsner, Ruth  
 Knowles, Marion Catherine  
 Levy, Shirley Dawn  
 Liston, Mary Howard  
 Livingstone, Sybil Eileen  
 Lublin, Anne Elizabeth

Lugton, Judith Noreen  
 McCormack, Gloria Anne  
 McCormack, Mary Catherine  
 Morton, Judith  
 Murdoch, Alicia May  
 Nicholls, Beverley Doris  
 Norman, Cessen May Barbara  
 Owen, Judith Mary  
 Pohl, Helga Anneliese Hildegard  
 Ponting, Rupert Bruce  
 Pritchard, Jennifer Mary  
 Renton, Mary  
 Reynolds, Ruth Margaret  
 Rollinson, Gwenda Maureen  
 Ryan, John Joseph Francis  
 Sassoan, Sarah Angela  
 Scott, Margaret Jean  
 Shannon, Barbara Doris  
 Sholl, Pamela Leslie  
 Smith, Joan Alison  
 Smith, Lorayne Jessie Dale  
 Thorn, William Derbyshire  
 Trier, Pamela Rosemary  
 Tucker, Jack Campbell  
 Van Dantzich, Sigmond  
 Vaughan, Merle Lois  
 Walker, Ann Larnach  
 Warren, Shirley Mary  
 Webb, Gillean Stewart  
 White, Joyce Winifred  
 Williams, Gerald Kevin  
 Young, Edith  
 Young, Jocelyn Lois

**Victoria****Qualifying Examination***Pass in Four Papers:*

Dow, Vera Margaret (with Merit Q4)

*Pass in Three Papers:*

Doubleday, Betty Constance Laura  
 Eastwood, Isabel Margaret  
 Forbes, Annie  
 Harrison, Anne  
 Kelly, Ian Melville  
 McNamara, Irene Winifred

*Pass in Two Papers:*

Barlow, Dorothy Margaret  
 Macdermid, Janet Whiteway  
 Odgers, Ida Dorothy  
 O'Keeffe, Kathleen Mary  
 Potts, Anne Jeanette  
 Reynolds, Edna Patricia  
 Williams, Raymond Percival

**Western Australia  
Preliminary Examination***Pass:*

Fox, Warwick Anderson

**Western Australia  
Qualifying Examination***Pass in Two Papers:*

Tweedie, Ian Douglas  
 White, Antoinette Elizabeth

**QUALIFYING EXAMINATION, 1953**

The following completed the Qualifying Examination this year:

*A.C.T.:*

Gubbins, Heather Welch  
 Schneider, Carol Mary  
 Smith, Helen Elaine  
 Sprod, Thomas Daniel

*N.S.W.:*

Brolly, Margaret  
 Butler, Bedford Dick William  
 Doust, Russell Fletcher  
 Hutchins, Frederick John  
 Johns, Ada Winifred  
 King, Alison  
 McNevin, Neil  
 Milne, Theodora Emily  
 Scougall, Alison Adria  
 Webb, Edward Frank

*Queensland:*

Meyers, Alison Amalie  
 Oakeley, Jane Stirling

*Tasmania:*

Rennie, Theo Elma

*Victoria:*

Dow, Vera Margaret

**REPORT ON RESULTS**

Examinations have again been completed, under a Syllabus which only differed from that of the previous year by the division of what was Q5. Purposes and methods of

library and related services into two papers. And on the whole the results and the reports of examiners show that there is little to be added to, or subtracted from the

Report on last year's results, as a Report on this year's. There would be little point in repeating that Report, and candidates for next year's examinations are advised to read it. It was published in the *Journal* for October last year and in the *Handbook* for this year, and will be reprinted in that for next year.

*Preliminary Examination.*

	1951	1952	1953
Passed	248 (84%)	199 (76.5%)	198 (69%)
Failed	46 (16%)	61 (23.5%)	89 (31%)
Total	294	260	287
Merit	26 (9%)	12 (4.5%)	6 (2%)

This shows a continued decline in the percentage of passes, without any rise in the standard required. It is not possible to be certain about causes. One may be an increasing proportion of no more than average juniors having what is no more than a routine shot at the Preliminary. Another may be an increasing number of candidates who are not yet in library work, who have a shot at the examination with the idea that they may take up librarianship if they get through, and who are lacking both in working experience and in a firm intention to persevere with librarianship. An analysis of candidates on these lines has not been attempted this year, but may be next.

*QUALIFYING EXAMINATION.*  
*Passes and Failures by Papers.*

	Pass.	Fail.	Total.	Merit.
Q1. Cataloguing, excluding classification and subject headings	44 (34%)	84 (66%)	128	2
Q2. Classification and subject headings .. .. ..	51 (49%)	53 (51%)	104	1
Q3. Provision, administration, processes and services of libraries : (a) General reference libraries .. .. .. (b) General lending libraries .. .. .. (c) University and college libraries .. .. ..	18 (72%) 9 (47%) 7 (37%)	7 (28%) 10 (53%) 12 (63%)	25 19 19	— 1 —
Q4. Provision, administration, processes and services of special libraries and information services generally, and with one of the following specializations : (a)-(b) .. .. .. .. .. .. (i) Australiana .. .. .. .. .. ..	27 (73%) 3 (60%)	10 (27%) 2 (40%)	37 5	4
Q5. History and purposes of libraries and related services ..	24 (73%)	9 (27%)	33	—
Q6. Production, acquisition and indexing of materials for research	14 (64%)	8 (36%)	22	—
Q7. Production, publication, history and care of books ..	10 (22%)	35 (78%)	45	—
Q8. Archives, with special reference to Australia .. ..	7 (70%)	3 (30%)	10	—
Q9. Work with children, generally and with special reference to EITHER public children's libraries and departments, OR school libraries .. .. .. .. ..	18 (39%)	28 (61%)	46	—

*Passes and Failures by Papers*

The pass percentage has fallen in papers 1, 4, 7, 9, of which 7 and 9 were 6 and 8 last year. It has risen in papers 2, 3, 4, 5-6, and 8, of which 5-6 were only one paper, 5, and 8 was 7, last year. So the percentage of passes has risen in more papers than it

has fallen in and the average pass percentage has risen by about one per cent. To this extent the results may be considered better, but even if this is indicative of an improvement it does not indicate a great one.

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Last year the lowest percentage of passes in a paper was 23% in Q2. Classification and subject headings. This year the percentage is 49%, but there has been a decline in the pass percentage in the companion cataloguing paper from 47% to 34%. The average of these related compulsory papers is however better. The lowest percentage this year was 22% in Q7. Production, publication, history and care of books, and the examiners considered that most of those passed were not prepared as they should have been, and really undeserving.

Lack of sufficient preparation, or of an understanding of what is required, both in quality and quantity of knowledge, appears to be the cause of failure in all papers. Judging by applications for re-marks many candidates who fail do not seem to realize how far they have fallen short of what is required.

One weakness is a lack of what might be called a professional approach, and a realization that technical terms in librarianship have meanings which are more exact than the meanings which the same terms have in general use, even if they are not different meanings. In cataloguing some candidates seemed only to know of edition in the sense of numbered editions and even some who went a little beyond this thought of edition as a guide to book selection rather than as an element in the bibliographical description and distinction of books. Publishers' names in book description were also thought of by many mainly as an aid to selection, and incidentally most of these showed a quite uncritical appreciation of the outpourings of one American publishing house.

Many candidates would do better in cataloguing if they were not able to take the Rules into the examination room and were thereby forced to learn, mark and inwardly digest some of the rules before the examination. Some obviously rely on being able to use the Rules in the examination and yet appear unable to perform such a simple reference task as looking up the word Publisher in the index, turning to the pages and rules to which reference is made, and writing a summary.

The following tables give the number of candidates passing in 6, 5, 4, 3 and 2 papers respectively at this year's Examination, and the number of candidates completing the Examination this year.

*Passes in Groups of Papers.*

4 who took six papers	passed in 6
1 " "	" " 5
3 " "	" " 4
11 " "	four " " 4
10 " "	" " 3
12 " "	three " " 3
7 " "	" " 2
39 " "	two " " 2
<hr/>	

Total 87, who passed in two or more papers out of 177 who attempted two or more papers at the Examination. For a pass in a paper candidates are required to pass in a majority of those attempted at the Examination.

*Number of Candidates who Completed the Qualifying Examination in 1953.*

1. 1944-51 Syllabus :	Section I	Section II }	..	..	..	1
2. 1952-53 Syllabus	..	..	..	..	..	17
Total	..	..	..	..	..	18

## QUALIFYING EXAMINATION

### Syllabus Alterations

*Note.*—There are now three papers in Cataloguing and Classification, Q1-3, and the Syllabus is altered accordingly as follows:

### Transition

Candidates who have already done old Q1 and Q2 need not, and may not, do new Q3. Candidates who have done old Q1 or

*Q<sub>2</sub>*, without the other need not, but may do new *Q<sub>3</sub>*, and must do new *Q<sub>1</sub>* if they have not done old *Q<sub>1</sub>* or new *Q<sub>2</sub>* if they have not done old *Q<sub>2</sub>*. Candidates who have done four papers other than *Q<sub>1</sub>* and *Q<sub>2</sub>* may complete with any two of the new *Q<sub>1-3</sub>*.

#### Compulsory

- Q<sub>1</sub>*. Cataloguing, excluding classification and subject headings: Theory.
- Q<sub>2</sub>*. Classification and subject headings: Theory.
- Q<sub>3</sub>*. Cataloguing and classification: Practical.

#### Optional

- Q<sub>4</sub>*. Provision, administration, processes and services of libraries.
  - A. General reference libraries.
  - B. General lending libraries.
  - C. University and college libraries.
- Q<sub>5</sub>*. Provision, administration, processes and services of special libraries and information services, A-I.
- Q<sub>6</sub>*. History and purposes of libraries and related services.

- Q<sub>7</sub>*. Production, acquisition and indexing of materials for research.
- Q<sub>8</sub>*. The production, publication, history and care of books.
- Q<sub>9</sub>*. Archives, with special reference to Australia.
- Q<sub>10</sub>*. Work with children.

#### Details of Qualifying Examination Papers

*Note*.—New *Q<sub>1</sub>* is a three-hour paper like all the others, but covering the ground of old *Q<sub>1</sub>* Pt. 1; new *Q<sub>2</sub>* is a three-hour paper like all the others covering the ground of old *Q<sub>2</sub>* Pt. 1; new *Q<sub>3</sub>* is a three-hour paper covering the ground of old *Q<sub>1</sub>* Pt. 2, and old *Q<sub>2</sub>* Pt. 2. In addition for new *Q<sub>2</sub>* candidates are required to have a knowledge of the new 15th or Standard edition of D.C. and of the Introduction to the 14th edition, but only of the Introduction, and in new *Q<sub>3</sub>* for practical work they may elect to be examined in either the 14th or the 15th edition. Details of these alterations will be published in a new edition of the Handbook.

## Notices and News

### BLISS'S BIBLIOGRAPHIC CLASSIFICATION

#### Two Letters and a Comment

Dear Sir,

I am not concerned with either the manners or the accuracy of your "editorial comment" on the letter in the last issue of the *Australian Library Journal* about the Bliss Classification, though I feel that both are open to comment.

It may, however, be worth while to put on record my experience, not as a librarian, but as a user with fairly wide experience of academic libraries here and abroad, including (and here I think I have the advantage over yourself as well as most of your readers) one classified on the Bliss

system. This experience has been wholly favourable. As an ex-librarian, and as one who has for years been bedevilled by the fantastic vagaries which Dewey inflicts on every specialized research worker, I have followed with some care the reactions of my colleagues, representing a wide range of academic backgrounds and interests, to the classification. I have heard no criticism, except of one section (economics) where the schedules were incomplete, and I have heard much praise. My own experience has been that the system works admirably, that sections required in connection with

the same piece of work are in fact in reasonable juxtaposition and not broadcast over 10 arbitrary "sections", and that material is easy to find, once the initial unfamiliarity of the notation has worn off. Incidentally, on the relative mnemonic merits of letters and numbers, the change-over to a mixed form for New South Wales car numbers is suggestive. Anyway, after all, puddings are for eaters, not for dyspeptic cooks, and classifications are made for readers and not for librarians and still less for connoisseurs of "philosophies" (however they come into it). And was not Melvil Dewey born in 1851?

However, I must not be led into traversing your "comment" point by point. To do so would be all too easy, but scarcely profitable, and somewhat insulting to the intelligence of your readers. For example, if you think that any "consensus of informed and experienced opinion" could be found to favour Dewey (or U.D.C.) among university librarians (or their clientèle!) your experience has been very different from mine. I have yet to meet one who, given a clear start, would consider them, though they must perforce make the best of their heritage. And how could any Australian "consensus" on the merits of Bliss have been either "informed" or "experienced" when no Australian librarian has had any experience of it? In New Zealand, where Bliss has been in use for some years, it has, I understand, given as much satisfaction to its users as it has here, and in America also I am informed that there is a growing body of opinion theoretically in its favour, though of course to change existing libraries over to any scheme, whatever its merits, is another matter. Bliss has, after all, been available only since 1940, and in full only in the last year or two. Because it was the fashion for an older generation of foxes to dock its tails, must the Australian National University go tailless to match?

Finally, Mr. Editor, if I may for a moment descend to your own level, I would say that in three years of fairly regular use I have yet to discover the BUG in Bliss,

but that in this argument the BULL is clearly on the other side of the fence.

Yours faithfully,

L. F. FITZHARDINGE,  
*Reader in the Sources of Australian  
History, Australian National  
University.*

Dear Sir,

I read with interest and surprise the editorial comment on the letter by Messrs. Campbell and Freeman in the July issue of your *Journal*. Surely that is exceeding the liberty conceded to an editor! Furthermore, as the editor is also the Hon. Gen. Secretary of our Association, any statement made by him apparently represents the official opinion of the L.A.A. I doubt very much whether the L.A.A. as a body would subscribe to such extreme views!

The comments on various class marks in the Bliss classification are, to say the least, not very relevant. As I have had the opportunity of studying (and working professionally in) three university libraries using the Dewey, Bliss and L.C. classification respectively, I can assure you that Dewey is the least suitable of all for university libraries. The statement that "Bliss was born in 1880 and his system has a 'philosophy' and a jargon of the 19th century . . ." is correct up to a point. However, the same and worse is true of the Dewey system, since the great Melvil was born in 1851 and his system can be traced directly to Francis Bacon. What of it? Most of our philosophical ideas and axioms go back to Plato and Aristotle—does that make them wrong or valueless? Because they embody generally valid, basic notions, and because they have been developed and modified to suit the changed conditions of the glorious twentieth century, they have been kept alive and are still meaningful today. Dewey's classification has, unfortunately, not been developed and modified in any reasonable way until the 15th edition appeared—which edition makes me think of a man who once had a very fine basso voice, but now performs the part of Hans Sachs in a high falsetto.

I also think it a pity that the personal opinion in the first paragraph of the commentary should be expressed with such animosity and bias against a worthy institution in which the library is undoubtedly fulfilling its proper function.

Yours faithfully,

D. H. BORCHARDT,  
Librarian, University of Tasmania.

The Honorary General Secretary is not Editor of the *Journal*, though at present both are the same person, and editorial opinion is not the official opinion of the Association. Without using the word editorial, except I think on that one occasion, I have written unsigned notices and comments of various kinds, both for and against, mainly under the general heading Notices and News, for example the notice of Borchardt's Union list, which immediately preceded the letters and comments on Bliss in the last issue. And I have assumed this kind of editorial and news writing to be within the liberty and even the duty of the editor, whoever he may be, and will so assume unless and until the Association's Council rules otherwise. But if only a scissors and paste editor is wanted, he will have to be someone else, not me.

One principal question I raised was not whether DC, emasculated or not, or UDC, remains better than BC, but whether this is the classification which should or will replace DC or UDC, even in universities. However, Dewey did not base his classification on a philosophical theory, and when his subject order is traced to that of Bacon's philosophical classification of knowledge it is usually traced indirectly, not directly. The point about the philosophical theory, to which Bliss attaches so much importance, is not its date, but that it is one, the "order of the sciences" theory, with the addition of his own consensus theory, that has never had the support of philosophers or logicians and now hasn't even the support of librarians. And there must be at least a suspicion that the classification has been fitted to the theory. Nevertheless, it may be fairly practicable, and yet not the classification of the future, or even one of them.

I have always thought, and taught, as others have, that the choice of class marks or notation is very relevant to the practice of library classification. The notation of BC is not mixed as that of LC is, figures being mainly if not entirely used only for its "systematic schedules" or auxiliary tables. And incidentally, motor car, and telephone numbers are not used to keep and find motor cars and telephones in the order of their numbers, and the prime purpose of library classification numbers is not to be mnemonic; it is to allow of books being kept and found in an order as easily as possible. We may more easily remember HKP which is BC's number for tennis, but will we find it more readily in order than 796.34?

As for the possibility of embarrassing letter combinations, too much may perhaps be made of it, but it is one which Bliss himself feels obliged to face, and I only used BUG and BULL to avoid using more embarrassing ones.

Irwin, in his *Librarianship: Essays on Applied Bibliography*, 1949, p. 106, also makes the point that Bliss can only be finally justified or otherwise in use. But librarians experienced in one system can express useful and informed opinions on the subject order and division and notation of another, even though it has not been applied to actual material in their country. And when BC had not been applied at all in Australia, those who made the momentous decision on its application in the National University Library were hardly more informed and experienced on it than others in Australia, who could have been consulted, whatever the final decision.

Of course puddings are for eaters, not for cooks, and medicines for patients, not for doctors, but we like our puddings to be mixed by experienced cooks as we like our medicines to be prescribed by informed doctors. It is too many cooks in the cooking that spoils the broth, not a consultation of cooks on the recipe, and surgeons usually consult on new operations, and lawyers on new precedents. But proverbial half truths, loose analogies and irrelevant allusions, are fruitful sources of much of the confusion

about bibliographical classification and notation with which we now have to struggle, like Laocoon with the serpents, or Theseus, with the Bull.—J.W.M.

## THE LAYMAN'S CONTRIBUTION

This issue of the *Journal* may be considered noteworthy as being the first to include articles contributed by laymen. Professor Hartwell of the N.S.W. University of Technology has contributed *The Librarian and the Scholar*, which he read as a paper to the N.S.W. Branch, and Mr. Linz, N.S.W. Inspector of Schools in charge of the Department's Visual Education Section, has described its film library.

The Institute was reorganized as the Association to bring in laymen, not only in the hope of bringing in more money, but in the hope of active participation, co-operation and contribution, and whilst Professor Hartwell contributes it should be noted that in his article he says: "but having got us in, particularly on the pretext of interest in archives, I regret to say that you have not taken advantage of us. . . . Membership . . . at the moment has the main and doubtful privilege of adding to my bookshelf regularly a most unscholarly journal."

There is a tendency to leave only a passive role to the layman, on the ground that that is the only one he is able or willing to assume in the Association. That has not been true of those who have played a prominent and valuable part in the Association's Council, and it need not be true of others. But it must be remembered that libraries and librarianship are not their bread and butter, and at least in their techniques not "shop" to lawyers, businessmen, teachers and others. They can give valuable support to libraries and librarians, but they do not have to. They have to be wooed to be won, to be especially welcomed and a place found for them. Only a few of the more converted or convinced will force themselves on the professional librarian in the face of indifference or at the risk of rebuff. And it is up to the professional librarian to find ways and means of encouraging and enabling laymen and

laywomen to contribute more than their subscription.

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Western Australia.

#### **Inter-Library Loans**

Like iced water and free air, inter-library loans might be expected cheerfully on request. They do, however, involve problems of policy and even ethics. An inter-library loan from a reference library might mean that someone elsewhere has a privilege of home use which the reference library's own users are denied. An organization which has built up a good special library may feel that by inter-library loans it is giving away information to competitors who have not shown the initiative or been prepared to meet the expense of getting it for themselves. Or a group of professional men served by a special library may feel that inter-library loans from it mean that a mystery which only they understand is getting into unprofessional hands.

The problem was discussed from the Special Library's point of view in the Special Libraries Section of last issue, and comment would be welcomed for publication or otherwise on the Library Loan Code set out below. This was adopted by the Association in 1946 and at the last meeting of Council it was resolved that it should be circulated for consideration and for any suggestions that might be made.

#### **Inter-Library Loan Code**

##### *1. Purpose.*

The primary purpose of the inter-library loan service is to aid research by the loan of unusual books, etc., after due provision has been made for the rights and convenience of the immediate constituents of the lending library.

##### *2. Scope.*

Almost any material possessed by a library, unless it has been acquired on terms

which entirely preclude its loan, may be lent upon occasion to another library, but the lender must decide in each case whether a particular loan should, or should not, be made. When applying for a loan, librarians should state whether a photographic reproduction, photostat, photoprint or microfilm would be a satisfactory substitute. The fullest use of photocopying should be made, to keep the actual lending of books to a minimum. (Reproductions can frequently be obtained at small cost and have an advantage over an actual loan in that they become the property of the borrower; moreover manuscripts, rare books and newspapers are often not to be had in any other way. Both libraries, lender and borrower, should make sure that they do not infringe copyright law in using such reproductions.)

##### *3. Material Which Should Not Be Requested.*

Libraries should not ask to borrow: current fiction, books requested for a trivial purpose, books in print which can readily be purchased and for which there is a natural demand in the library owning them. No material can be borrowed for class use.

##### *4. Material Lent Only Under Exceptional Circumstances.*

Libraries are usually unwilling to lend: material in constant use, books of reference, material which by reason of its size or character requires expensive packing; material which by reason of age, delicate texture or fragile condition is likely to suffer in transit; very valuable or very rare books.

##### *5. Music.*

Music is lent on the same terms as books, but here again the lending library is to be the judge of what material it will make available on loan, and may not wish to run risk of sending parts of large and important sets.

##### *6. Applications.*

Libraries will apply to other institutions expected to possess the desired material in

order of their relative distance from, or nearest library, whether in respect of duty or distance, should be approached first. Some care may need to be taken, however, to avoid asking libraries of great size to assume an undue proportion of the inter-library loan burden.

Applications for loans of books should give the author's full name, or at least his surname correctly spelt and accompanied by initials; title accurately stated, volume number if part of a set, date of publications, publisher and edition if a *particular* one is desired. Applications for periodicals should cite the author and title of the article, the complete title of the magazine, the date of the issue, volume and page numbers. If in any doubt, the source of the reference should be quoted.

#### 7. Limit of Number of Volumes.

Each lending library must fix a limit for itself of the number of volumes it will lend at one time and also to the total number of volumes it will allow each borrowing body to have out at one time.

#### 8. Duration of the Loan.

This will vary with the nature and purpose of the loan. The time allowed will be stated in each case by the lender when the loan is made. Four weeks is, perhaps, an average period, counted from the day the book reaches the borrower to the day when he returns it. An extension of time may usually be obtained for good reasons. Arrangements may be made for an initial loan of a longer period than usual if circumstances seem to warrant it. The lender always reserves the right of summary recall.

#### 9. Notices of Receipts and Return.

Receipts of books borrowed should be acknowledged at once, only if required, and when books are returned, notice should be sent by mail at the same time. Promptness in this respect is necessary to permit books to be traced if they go astray. Notice of return should state author and title of book

sent, the date of borrowing, the date of return, and the means of conveyance, post, rail, etc.

Books should be protected by cardboard and wrapped in heavy paper. The package should be marked **INTER-LIBRARY LOAN**.

#### 10. Expenses.

All expenses of carriage in both directions (and insurance) when demanded, must be borne by the borrowing library but a sharing of expenses by lender and borrower on a reciprocity basis, is to be encouraged. A borrowing library should be informed before a book is despatched, if the total cost of transport both ways would exceed 10/- (ten shillings). Books sent by post should be registered.

#### 11. Safeguards.

The borrowing library is bound by the conditions imposed by the lender; these it may not vary. The borrowing library will safeguard borrowed material as carefully as it would its own.

#### 12. Responsibility of Borrowers.

The borrowing library must assume complete responsibility for the safety and prompt return of all material borrowed.

If a borrowing library receives a damaged or imperfect book, without notification to that effect, it should at once notify the lending library.

In case of actual loss in transit, the borrowing library should not only meet the cost of replacement, but should charge itself with the trouble of making it, unless the owner prefers to attend to the matter.

#### 13. Violations of the Code.

Disregard of any of the foregoing provisions, injury to books from use, careless packing, or detention of material beyond the time specified for its return, will be considered a sufficient reason for declining to lend in the future.

**UNIVERSITY OF SYDNEY.****Assistant Wanted**

NEW ENGLAND UNIVERSITY COLLEGE  
(University of Sydney)  
ARMIDALE, N.S.W.

Applications are invited for the position of Library Assistant in the Dixson Library. Applicants should hold the Preliminary Certificate of the Library Association of Australia. A University degree and Library experience are also desirable. Salary, £400-£550 plus a cost-of-living allowance (present rate £252 for males, £191 for females). Further particulars may be obtained from the Registrar. Applications should reach the Registrar by Monday, 30th November, 1953.

**UNIVERSITY OF SYDNEY.****Archivist Wanted**

Applications are invited for position of archivist to the University closing December 21st, 1953. Salary range £650-£1000 or £1050-£1300 according to qualifications and with cost of living adjustment. Applicants should be graduates, preferably with archival experience. For further particulars, write to the Registrar, University of Sydney.

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